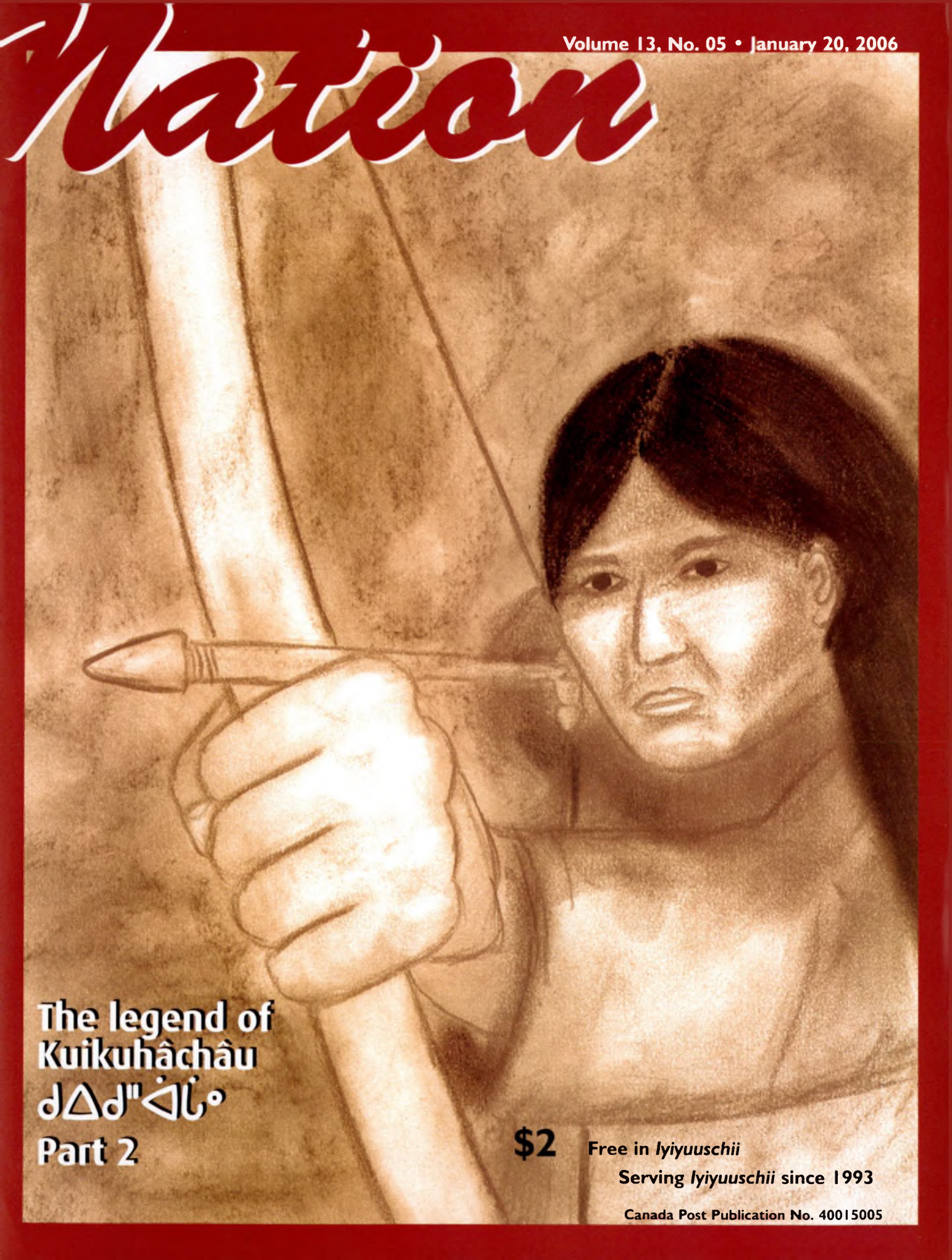


Nation

Volume 13, No. 05 • January 20, 2006



The legend of
Kuikuhâchâu
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Part 2

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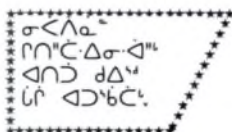


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New government, old prejudice?

By Lyle Stewart

There are dark clouds on the immediate horizon for Canada's First Nations with the increasingly likely election of a Conservative federal government under the leadership of Stephen Harper.

Of all the parties in Parliament, the Conservatives have by far the most regressive, even repressive, approach to Natives.

Harper's top policy advisor is academic Tom Flanagan, author of the infamous book, *First Nations? Second Thoughts*. In it, he supports assimilating the Aboriginal population into the mainstream Canadian melting pot.

Flanagan has said Aboriginal peoples are simply immigrants and Europeans are only taking control of the land as they did. He looks at giving different rights to "earlier and later immigrants" as a form of racism. Flanagan considers sovereignty as something the Native peoples never had before Europeans came to Canada.

Flanagan's influence as the Conservative Party's Rasputin is the best clue to Tory policy on First Nations, because the party has not spelled out exactly what its approach would be.

Other indications are just as ominous, however. Last week Tory MP Monte Solberg said a Conservative government would not honour the agreements made with the Assembly of First Nations during the Kelowna summit last November. Tearing up the agreement would mean Native communities would lose millions of dollars in funding for daycare, social housing, post-secondary education and health programs.

To be fair, the party quickly rushed out a press release saying the Conservatives "support the objectives, targets, and principles as laid out in the agreement" from Kelowna. But there is no denying that Tory instincts run in a different direction than the other three parties in Parliament.

Despite the stench of corruption and desperation surrounding the tired Liberal government in Ottawa, Paul Martin's team still sports the most comprehensive

Aboriginal policy. Martin himself, during the social-program slashing years of the 1990s, kept increasing budgets for Indian Affairs while every other department was starved of cash. The successful agreement in Kelowna is testament to their efforts, and while they were long overdue, they are better late than never.

For Eeyou Istchee specifically, an important question mark surrounding a change in government would be over the future of the planned nation-to-nation talks on self-government. It is difficult to imagine the Conservative Party following through on these vital negotiations.

The federal New Democratic Party usually sports the most enlightened approach to Native governance, but their policies are not much more than a wish list since the party doesn't stand a chance of being elected. Nonetheless, in a minority Parliament, the NDP can make a big difference by influencing the direction of a governing party in exchange for its support in the House of Commons.

The NDP under Jack Layton would like to see the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples implemented. They do not believe Canada can continue to maintain a colonial system as it has done in the past.

The Bloc Quebecois and Gilles Duceppe, while pro-sovereignty and focused on expanding Quebec government powers, also have a fairly progressive approach to Natives. But the Bloc is in the same position as the NDP: eternal opposition. That leaves the devil you know – Paul Martin – as the best bet for First Nations.

With the momentum the Tories have in the polls, however, it appears the best we can hope for is that Canadian voters deny Stephen Harper a majority of seats in Parliament. The other parties could then forestall disaster by defeating anti-Native legislation.

No matter the way one looks at the political weather forecast now, though, the future for First Nations looks stormy.

Contents

editorial

New government, old prejudice? 3

rez notes

Tradtekno™ 4

news

Diabetes: the battle continues 5

In Brief 7

features

The legend of Kuikuhâchâu
ᑕᑭᑭᑦᑎᑦᑕᑦᑎᑦ Part 2 9

Under the Northern Sky

Icy roads in the North 23



on the cover

Illustration: Brian Webb

Design: Martin Dubé

Tradtekno™



In the old days, nothing was ever paid for, except with sweat. No effort, no gain, no life. It was that simple. If you didn't make those snowshoes, you'd sure be a lot skinnier come springtime. If you didn't cut wood, you'd have to change your name to baskins or ice-tee when some searcher found your perfectly preserved body after goose break. Yep, do nothing, get nowhere except the Hades of your choice.

In the recent past, making snowshoes and the like wasn't artistically viewed as it is today, but more tool and utensil minded. Most functional art, like a beautifully sewn mitten, does keep you warm during January and February; same thing for the snow shovel. When looked at closely, the fit, form and finish of a paddle makes the difference between strong shoulders for a well made oar and aching arms for a clumsy, heavy piece of wood. It is the man-made yet natural technology that we seem to keep close and dear to our culture.

Yep, Aboriginal functional art features some of the finest hand made utensils and tools in the world. So much so that our traditional technology helps shape the country into what it is today.

Just think when the first Euro-dude showed up and found out that one canoe weighed the same as his long oar. Can you imagine having to portage a Newfie dory uphill around the Niagara back then? Talk about artery- and back-busting work, sweat and toil. Our technology allowed us to carry one canoe per abo-dude, no sweat at all. I think that sometimes we forget who we really are and really believe we play a

passive role in our own lives.

Imagine if the good people of the Iroquois didn't have time to have fun during the cold winter months out on the frozen Potomac or St. Lawrence, before succumbing to disease and pestilence. Would hockey be here today? Would there be a movie called *The Rocket*, by any chance? Perhaps curling would be the only sport to survive due to Scottish stubbornness and men would value the broom?

Indeed, would America and Canada be one massive environmental mess if our arrows didn't ply the skies in favour of red or blue? What if simple aspirin hadn't been inspired by our gnawing on willow bark? Would that mean that hangovers would never be curable or would the main breakfast drink consistently consist of raw eggs?

I believe we have a lot to contribute to society, (I like to contribute silly stories) and we shouldn't sell ourselves short by thinking we have nothing to do. Of course we have plenty to draw upon. How about that remedy for life long mosquito repellent: one dose, good for life, type of thinking?

How about showing those Euro-dude descendents how to paddle forward, instead of backwards like we always see them do? Maybe one day, we'll conduct goose call clinics for the fowl mouthed hunter from Pennsylvania. Or snowshoe mounting and dismounting techniques that leave many astounded, as we casually throw down the dried wood for the instant fire we created, things like that. Things we've mastered over millennia.

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Canada

Wemindji, Chisasibi lead way in fight against diabetes

Northern Stores employees in Eeyou Istchee go the distance for research funds

If the hard work of Northern Stores employees in Eeyou Istchee is any indication, diabetes might be a thing of the past thanks to ambitious fundraising to fight the disease.

The chain's workers are once again fundraising by selling paper snowmen, with the proceeds going towards research and treatment.

This year, Wemindji sold 5,406 small snowmen at \$2 a piece. They also sold an unprecedented 309 large snowmen at \$20 each. That means that the community of less than 1,200 sold almost \$17,000 worth of snowmen to fight diabetes! They were far and away the leaders, outpacing larger stores like the Giant Tiger stores in Winnipeg and Moose Jaw. The campaign wrapped up December 31.

"I feel good," said Doreen Shashaweskum, the interim manager of Wemindji's Northern Store. "My cashiers wanted to beat what they did last year. They would ask people if they wanted to buy one at the cash. I'm very proud of them."

Customers kept asking if the store had beaten last year's total, she added. "We kept updating them on what we needed to sell and they kept buying. One of my staff went twice door to door to sell the snowmen. It (the credit) all goes to the girls, not me," she said modestly.

Another way Wemindji raised funds was by having a merchandise bingo. Any money raised was put directly to purchasing snowmen. Other fundraising secrets, however, will remain that way Shashaweskum chuckled.

Chisasibi also put up impressive numbers as well with 4,479 small and 18 large snowmen sold, for a total of over \$9,300.

In all, the Giant Tiger and Northern Stores across Canada raised \$107,868 by snowmen sales alone this season. That total consisted of 49,843 small snowmen sold and 410 large or family-sized snowmen sold.

"I felt we exceeded expectations this year," said Jim Deyell,

Story By Steve Bonspiel

Photos courtesy: The Northwest Company

North West Company's Director of Public Affairs Northern Canada. "I was happy to see that it wasn't just a staff effort. Some of them reached out to the schools to give them a better understanding of what we were doing and help them participate in it. We had school children involved and that helps to get the message out to the community."

North West Company's efforts, which also included a walkathon for diabetes in Hawaii and a coin drop box, raised almost \$160,000 for 2005. The money is slated to help the Canadian Diabetes Foundation for research purposes.

For many years, North West has been a leader in northern communities in the fight against diabetes and promoting healthy lifestyles. The healthy living food program, which helps individuals identify what is good for them to eat, has been going on for 19 years across Canada's north.

Another initiative, which should be interesting to parents in Eeyou Istchee, is North West's drop-the-pop campaign. Currently only in Nunavut, it consists of having kids give up soda for one week a year in hopes of eventually weaning them off for good, or at least cutting their intake.

Aside from the fact that Crees suffer from diabetes at a rate of more than three times their Canadian counterparts, Shashaweskum also said there are other reasons the community is very eager to help. "We have three people from here who live in Chisasibi on dialysis machines, I think that's part of why so many people are supportive," she said, adding that she also has a sister stricken with the disease.

According to the Cree Health Board's 2004 statistics, almost 14 per cent (or one in every seven) of Eeneouch 15 years and older suffer from diabetes.

"The thing is to find a cure," Shashaweskum concluded. "That's what we're hoping. I also hope we'll beat (our numbers) again next year!"



Top row: (l-r) Priscilla Hughboy, Ruthie Sealhunter, Doreen Shashaweskum
Bottom row: (l-r) Beverly Mayappo, Loretta Shanush, Marcella Georgekish
Missing from photo: Joyce Hughboy, Elsie Visitor, Laura Kakabat, Maverick Georgekish

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Many people in Eeyou Istchee have Diabetes, or know of someone who does. Quite often this can be someone they love. We know that healthier food choices are important, but let's face it, sometimes they can border on boring. Well, not anymore! Each issue of *the Nation* will feature a delicious meal that keeps in mind the importance of health maintenance but does not forget rich and hearty satisfaction.



Succulent Skillet Chicken Parmesan

1/2 cup	seasoned bread crumbs	125ml
6 tbsp	Parmesan cheese, grated	90ml
4	boneless skinless chicken breast halves	
1	egg, beaten	
2 tbsp	olive oil	30ml
1/2 cup	onion, chopped	125ml
1 8-ounce can	tomato sauce	250g
1 4-ounce can	mushrooms	125g
1 tsp	basil, crushed	5ml

Directions

1. Combine bread crumbs and 4 tablespoons of your Parmesan cheese. Dip the chicken halves in the egg, then coat with the crumb mixture.
2. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook chicken for five minutes per side or until done. Remove to serving dish, making sure to keep it warm.
3. Cook onion in the same skillet until tender, about two minutes. Add tomato sauce and basil and simmer for five minutes.
4. Pour sauce over chicken and sprinkle with the rest of the Parmesan cheese. Makes 4 servings. Enjoy!

NUTRITIONAL ANALYSIS PER SERVING:

Calories: 343

Total fat: 14.3g

Carbohydrates: 18g

Cholesterol: 132mg

Protein: 35.1g

Potassium: 595mg

Dietary fibre: 2.2g

Sodium: 769mg



Northern

Hockey

Category	Champion	Finalist
Hockey 'A'	Mistissini Trappers [5]	Chisasibi [2] Hunters
Best Goalie	Mistissini Trappers (Luke Mianscum)	
Best Defence	Mistissini Trappers (Errol Mianscum)	
Best Forward	Chisasibi Hunters (Reginald Gilpin)	
Best Coach	Chisasibi Coaching Staff	
Top Scorer	Waskaganish Wings (Steve Cheechoo)	
MVP	Mistissini Trappers (Titus Metabie)	
Hockey 'B'	Mistissini Falcons [1]	Waskaganish [0] Eagles
Best Goalie	Waskaganish Eagles (Jesse Frank)	
Best Defence	Mistissini Falcons (Wesley Trapper)	
Best Forward	Waskaganish Eagles (David Whiskeychan)	
Best Coach	Mistissini Coaching Staff	
Top Scorer	Mistissini Falcons (Ben Neeposh)	
MVP	Mistissini Falcons (Ben Neeposh)	
Hockey 'C'	Waskaganish [3] X-Wings	Waskaganish [1] Braves
Hockey 'OT'	Mistissini [3] Drummers	Mistissini [2] Beavers
Women's Hockey	Mistissini [4] Mustangs	Waswanipi [3] Ice Blizzards
Best Goalie	Mistissini Mustangs (Victoria Mianscum)	
Best Defence	Mistissini Mustangs (Helen Gunner)	
Best Forward	Waswanipi Ice Blizzards (Joy Kitchen)	
Best Coach	Waswanipi Ice Blizzards Coaching Staff	
Top Scorer	Waswanipi Ice Blizzards (Joy Kitchen)	
MVP	Mistissini Mustangs (Jewyll Matoush)	
Broomball		
Broomball 'A'	Waswanipi [2] Northern Stars	Chisasibi [0] North Stars
Broomball 'B'	Wemindji [3] Ice Stars	Waskaganish [1] Wild Cats
Best Goalie	Chisasibi (Alice Visitor)	
Best Defence	Chisasibi (Catherine Wash)	
Best Forward	Waswanipi (Carole Kitchen)	
Best Coach	Waswanipi (Charlotte Ottereyes)	
Top Scorer	Waskaganish (Tracey Blackned)	
MVP	Waswanipi (Charlotte Ottereyes)	

Correction:

The *Nation* would like to make a correction to a story that appeared in 13-03. Charlie Junior Trapper is from Mistissini, not Nemaska as previously reported. The *Nation* regrets the error.

Two Kashechewan inmates die in jail fire

The people of Kashechewan were hit with another tragic setback recently as the local jail caught fire and took the lives of two prisoners.

The incident on Sunday, January 8, also left an officer seriously burned when he tried to free the men by unlocking their cell doors. Another officer and a civilian guard were treated for smoke inhalation.

It was unclear at press time what caused the fire.

A visit to the site by New Democrat MP Charlie Angus revealed abhorrent conditions at the community's only holding facility.

"It just was in terrible, terrible condition, holes in the walls, the ceilings were inadequate," Angus told Canadian Press later that day.

"It looked like something you see in Sarajevo than the province of Ontario."

In October Kashechewan became known across Canada as 1,500 people were evacuated in a crisis over E. coli-tainted water supply.

Old equipment silences Cree Radio

The Cree Radio Network is down due to technical problems with the uplink equipment. The equipment is obsolete and no replacement parts are available because they are no longer manufactured.

The James Bay Cree Communications Society was hoping a new fibre-optic network or support high-speed Internet would be available already, as it would cost \$60,000 to \$70,000 to replace the existing uplink system. Currently, the CRN is trying to use the Internet to bring you the latest news and weather programming. Heritage Canada is trying to find some funding to help the network get back up and running.

The JBCCS is also talking with the Grand Council in order to find emergency funding.

The CRN still reaches five of the nine communities in Eeyou Istchee via high-speed Internet, but will not be able to return to the broadcast airwaves for at least two weeks. The CRN wants to apologize for the service interruption, but promises to do everything it can to be back on the air in all communities as soon as possible.



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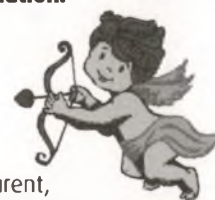
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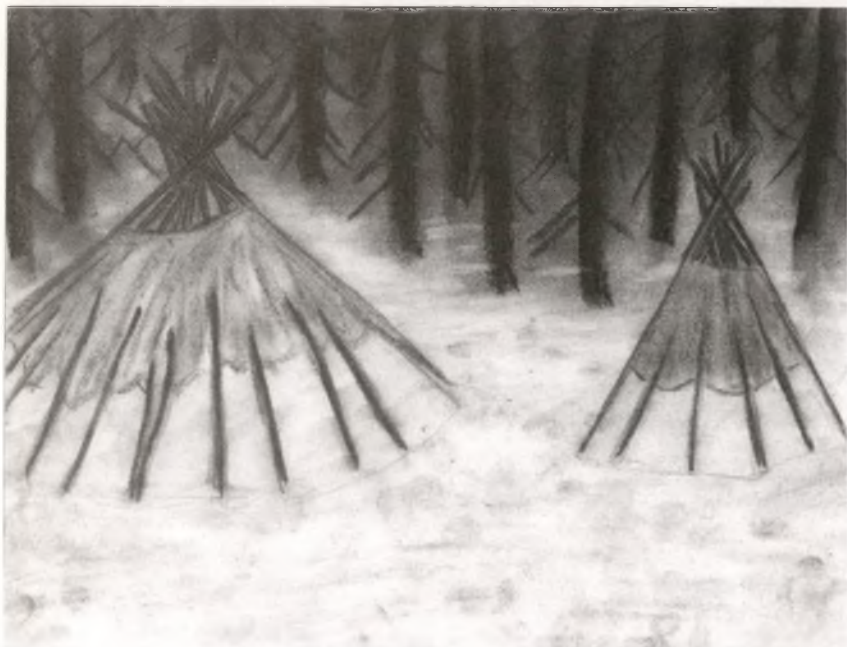
dΔd"◁İ° Part 2

Told by Sandy Masto of Whapmagoostui
Translation & illustrations By Brian Webb

לֹא־לִי־חַיִּים וְלֹא־לִי־חַיִּים, וְלֹא־לִי־חַיִּים

One day as Kuikuhâchâu ran, he came across a trail of people who had been traveling. He followed it and reached a campsite. There were two teepees, a small one and a large one. It was obvious that the large teepee had been feasting on caribou but the small teepee had nothing to show that they were eating. It seemed that the people who lived in the small teepee were hungry.

Kuikuhâchâu suspected that his brother was in the area. He looked at the large abandoned teepee with disgust. He commented, "Who is this person with plenty of food? He must be out of his mind not to share food with people who are obviously hungry." Kuikuhâchâu was exasperated with the greedy ones.



Kiukuhâchâu continued to follow the trail. He reached the camp of the two teepees. The two teepees stood close to each other. He walked towards the small one and peaked in. Only his young nephews sat inside. They looked gaunt and underfed. The boys saw him and exclaimed, "Our uncle has arrived! We'll be eating for sure." Kiukuhâchâu remarked, "Eating? Eating what? I am hungry also. I have no food with me!"

Kuikuhâchâu said, "It seems your neighbour has plenty of food. But you guys are hungry!" The boys mumbled, "He doesn't share any food with us." Kuikuhâchâu thought of a plan and said, "Wait, I'll get some food for you."

He went over to the large teepee. In contrast to the small teepee, the children inside looked healthy and well fed. Plenty of caribou meat hung on racks all around inside the teepee. The children were left to watch over the teepee. Kuikuhâchâu entered and sat down.

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

continued on page 11



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DIRECTOR OF POLICE

(Subject to a six (6) month probationary period)

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Responsibility & Authority: (contact HR for full job description)

The responsibilities and authorities described are subject to a variety of local, regional, provincial and national laws, regulations and established policies. These responsibilities and authorities are also subject to functional guidance which may be received from the local Chief and Council as well as the local Police Committee. The incumbent must also comply with directions mandated by the Court.

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- Ability to provide leadership, direction and be a strong team leader;
- Ability to develop and maintain effective working relationships;
- Ability to evaluate/solve problems and to make decisions under arduous circumstances;
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Selection Committee - Director of Police
c/o Human Resources Manager
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Kuikuhâchâu asked, "Where are all the adults?" They answered, "Our parents went with our neighbours to a place

[illegible]

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Minitû explained, "We haven't cooked the meat yet. My children told me that you've arrived. I was eager to see you. We've only made broth so far. Take a drink of the delicious broth and you'll take home the fresh meat here." Kuikuhâchâu was delighted, "You sure are generous."

Kuikuhâchâu took his time to observe the teepee, looking up at the smoke hole and watching Minitû's wife fleshing the caribou skin near the entrance. He knew that Minitû's wife was ready to kill him if he wanted to escape through the entrance. He noticed a large gap between the poles up at the smoke hole. Minitû insisted, "Drink the broth. We made it for you but we don't have a ladle for you."

Kuikuhâchâu took the pot of hot broth and put it on his knees and tilted the pot to his mouth to drink. Kuikuhâchâu took a sip of the very hot broth. Minitû continued talking as he cunningly reached for his spear but Kuikuhâchâu knew what he was going to do.

Minitû suddenly grabbed his spear to attack Kuikuhâchâu. But Kuikuhâchâu splashed him with the hot broth. Minitû's wife and children were also scalded. Kuikuhâchâu grabbed the meat he was promised and jumped up onto the rack poles above the fire and



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- Masters level degree in Education or equivalent.
- At least 6 to 8 years increasingly senior management experience in program delivery and/or education.
- Experience working in an environment that has generated knowledge of and commitment to the educational challenges experienced by Canadian Aboriginal communities.

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- Known as a team player and key contributor to operational and strategic decisions.
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- Exposure to and/or knowledge of working with a jury and scholarship allocation process.
- Experience in the management and development of a team and associated budget.

Personal Qualities

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- Approachable, collaborative and responsive to ideas - a broad, strategic thinker yet able to facilitate detailed, thorough processes.
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For more information or to submit your resume, please contact Lynda Ducharme, 416-481-7221, e-mail Lynda@ducharmegroup.ca, www.ducharmegroup.ca



CREE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT



Important Notice: New Deadline to submit applications for Territorial Programs

Attention Individuals, Employers and Organizations

The Cree Human Resources Development Department is requesting that all applications for Territorial Programs Initiatives for the fiscal year 2006-2007 received no later than March 1, 2006. Any application received after this date will not receive priority and might have to be postponed until the following year.

We request prior to your application that you ensure that all information required is in your project proposal. Application forms are available at any of our CHRD offices and on our web-site, "www.chrd.ca". If you have any questions or require further information, please contact any of persons listed below or visit your local Cree Employment Officer situated in your community, it will be our pleasure to assist you.

Coordinator Territorial Programs

Michael Petawabano,

email: michaelp@chrd.ca

Sectoral Officers

Abel Trapper,

email: abelt@chrd.ca

Michael Mianscum:

email: mmianscum@chrd.ca

Matthew Petawabano

email: matthew@chrd.ca

All application must be sent to the Coordination Office in Mistissini at:

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Telephone: 418-923-2525

Mistissini Quebec,

Fax: 418-923-2111

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- ◆ Transport
- ◆ Tourism
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Minitû saw Kuikuhâchâu butchering the caribou from the first snare. But that would have been Minitû's best caribou. Minitû told his son to ask Kuikuhâchâu if that was the caribou he wanted to butcher. Minitû's son went over and asked him. Kuikuhâchâu answered, "I would not be butchering it if I didn't want it."

Minitû told his son to fetch the caribou snare from Kuikuhâchâu and to be sure not to get it bloody. Minitû's son went over to Kuikuhâchâu again and asked for the caribou snare, "My father says not to get it bloody." Kuikuhâchâu's hands were already soaked in blood from butchering the caribou. Kuikuhâchâu took the caribou snare and coiled it up with the bloody hands. Minitû's son was astounded. After coiling the caribou snare, Kuikuhâchâu drenched it into the caribou blood and threw it over to Minitû's son and said, "Here you go."

Kuikuhâchâu finished butchering his caribou and got ready to leave, dragging the caribou back to the camp. Minitû still had many caribou to butcher. Minitû saw Kuikuhâchâu and told him, "Pack down the trail for us to head back to camp. We'll follow your trail when we're ready to go back in the evening." Kuikuhâchâu nodded.

Kuikuhâchâu broke a new trail back to the camp. As he walked, he searched around for two good places to attack Minitû and his wife. When he returned back to the camp with his caribou, he told his brother to finish cleaning the caribou and to prepare a good meal for themselves. Kuikuhâchâu went back on the trail with his bow and arrows.

Kuikuhâchâu hid from the trail on a small hill which he had walked over. He saw Minitû coming, walking the same trail dragging a butchered caribou wrapped in the skin. As Minitû walked on the trail, he paused and said to himself, "What a strange feeling I have. I feel like there are arrows going into me." Kuikuhâchâu whispered to himself, "Of course you are. I'm about to shoot you with my arrows."

Minitû was dressed in a metallic covering, just like armor. Only his armpits were exposed. Minitû began dragging his cari-

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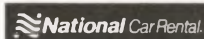


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Kuikuhâchâu told his brother that Minitû and his wife were dead. Minitû's children were still in their lodge. His brother was willing to adopt Minitû's children. But Kuikuhâchâu did not accept it. He explained that the children would be exactly the same as their father. Kuikuhâchâu killed Minitû's entire family. This was how the legend was told. Kuikuhâchâu had vanquished two foes, Wâniyûyâu and Minitû.

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UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

Icy roads in the North by Xavier Kataquapit

Driving a vehicle is a luxury I have enjoyed for many years. I learned how to drive on my dad's old John Deere tractor when I was 13. It was great fun and once I learned how to operate a tractor, it was only a matter of time before I started asking to take out the family truck.

In a remote northern community, there are very few roads to travel on. In all, the road network for my home community, Attawapiskat, stretches about five kilometres, from the sewage lagoon site east of the community to the addictions treatment centre west of town.

Speed was never a big problem as the road network, made out of coarse gravel, slowed everyone down. My brothers and I thought that a speed of 50 kilometres an hour on our bumpy roads was very fast and exciting. Whenever we found an opportunity we went onto the airport runway to see how fast we could make that old truck go. At the time, it was exhilarating to be able to travel at 90 kilometres an hour for a few quick seconds.

When I started my official licensed driving several years ago, I found that I had to relearn how to drive again. Driving on paved highways and city roadways was much different than what I had been accustomed to at home. When I started using the highways, I was surprised to discover that travelling at 90 kilometres an hour was a normal, everyday event. The excitement of rocking the suspension at 90 over bumpy and uneven gravel was not the same as travelling over smooth and level asphalt, however. I found that I even missed the long trail of dust behind my vehicle that always made me feel like I was driving a hot rod at excessive speeds.

Winter driving up north was much the same except that we could expand our driving from the community and access the winter road. This allowed us the opportunity to visit other communities along the coast. We could also access the train system in Moosonee and even put the vehicle on a flat car and go further to Cochrane. From there, we were excited at the possibility of being able to reach the rest of the modern world.

When you are travelling from community to community on the winter road it is better to drive at night. The road surface freezes solid in colder night time temperatures and that makes for easier driving. It is also easier to spot large potholes or huge dips in the road, or even worse, a shifted block of ice that creates dangerous jagged edges on the river crossings. During the day, these dangers are a lot harder to spot due to the fact that the ambient light of the day tends to blend in all the curves and bumps on the white surface of the road. At night, the bright headlights of the

vehicle create dark shadows whenever there is an uneven surface up ahead.

The only danger we had with winter driving was the freezing cold. At night, if your vehicle broke down, you were stuck in the middle of nowhere without any help. There is no cell phone service, no gas station or restaurant and very little traffic as there are not that many people along the coast.

At one time I considered the winter road to be a dangerous route for anyone and their vehicle due to the extreme cold. However, I soon discovered another form of dangerous and risky driving soon after I acquired my driver's license and began scooting around on roads in the south. Summer driving on what I considered to be well-serviced roads had some danger. Even though roads were maintained, there was always the realization that I was travelling 100 kilometres an hour in one direction and traffic was moving in the opposite direction just a mere three feet away. The only thing that separated us from a collision was a painted yellow line on the asphalt.

In the winter time this situation is made even worse. In a bad snow storm, the little yellow line that separates opposing traffic from one another is blurred or disappears entirely. Drivers are left guessing where they should be on the road while at the same time dodging logging trucks, transports and other cars and trucks. Back home on the winter road, the only thing we had to worry about in a storm was getting our vehicle stuck in the accumulating snow.

In cold weather on a northern Ontario highway, the well-paved asphalt roads are covered over in a layer of ice. Drivers still move about at 90 or 100 kilometres an hour, but prolonged driving makes people very nervous and tired. It is terrible to realize that at any moment one's life can be ended on an icy stretch of road. We take our chances on the fact that an opposing vehicle will stay in their own lane but sometimes that cannot be counted on.

At first I enjoyed driving in the south because of the freedom and excitement of heading off to new places. I still do but I also have the added experience of driving with full attention and the thought that it is never safe to drive on ice and snow at high speeds. I am sure there are many northern Ontarians who can relate some close calls, near misses or actual accidents they have been part of or have seen first hand. After all, winter driving is a normal part of our lives for half the year.

I have learned that the best defensive driving skill is to know when to not be on the road. If there is a bad storm or the roads are very icy you won't find me out there. I will be sitting at home in a cozy spot reading a book and leaving that challenge to someone else.



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BIRTHS - 100

We are proud to announce the birth of the Capissit twins on December 21, 2005. Kimora-Lee Capissit @ 1:48pm (7pounds1oz) & Kimisha-Ann Capissit @ 1:49pm (6pounds7oz). The proud parents are Germain Capissit & Angela Ottereyes. Jabweh! Congratulations to you both! We can't wait to see you guys again. Treasure & Benjamin..make sure you watch you little twin siblings carefully now ok? They're gonna need your love & caring and most of all..your protection!..lol..jabweh! We know you both are small but you both can manage..lol..ok? Germain..Trying to keep up to your older bro? (Willie)..lol..still got a long ways to go man!..lol Well take care of all your babies..lol..(ever sound like there are a lot of them)..lol..well you know what I mean! We love you guys! Once again, congratulations to you both!! xoxoxoxoxoxo-++Love always & forever! Your family in Waswanipi @79 Poplar & 43 Jack Pine.

BIRTHDAYS - 101

A special little girl will be celebrating her birthday on January 17th. She is my pride and my greatest joy. Thank you Sky (Matoush) for giving me the greatest gift, you made me a mom, I could never ask for anything more. Happy 7th birthday Sky!! Love always your mom, Rachel and Jesse.

I want to wish my big sis Sky Matoush a Happy 7th Birthday on the 17th of January.

I am the luckiest little boy to have a sister like you. I love you so much and wish you many more birthdays. Love always, your little bro, Jayden Blacksmith.

Benjamin Capissit is 3 years old..Jahbweh! 3 years old boy! Time sure does fly by when you watch someone you love grow up..lol..Next year you'll already be in school, you with your little cutefschool bag which I bet you'll be putting your toys in to bring to school..lol..Well we hope you have a blast on your birthday, cause Lord knows you deserve it. We love you so much Bunjee . We're sorry for not being there for you on your special day but we had you on our minds all day that day..& we know this is kinda late too..lol..but better late than never right?..We love you! Happy 3rd birthday Bunjee!! Love always & forever, your family in Waswanipi @79 Poplar & 43 Jack Pine xoxoxoxoxoxoxo.

On January 7th, my niece Emilysh celebrates her 6th birthday. May you have all you wished for even though Christmas just passed 2 weeks ago. Happy Birthday and many more to come from Dina, Richard, and your cousin Melissa from Mistissini.

A wonderful daughter of ours will be celebrating her 8th birthday on Jan.9. Happy birthday Toronna! We love you very much and wishing you all the best on your special day, we can't wait to see you blow your candles and hope your wish comes true. From: Mom and Dad and your lil sis Lianne,txoxox.

I want to wish my 1st born son Aben Shawn Luke Samuel a 18th birthday on January 16.I can't believe years have passed by. I will never forget when I first held you in my arms. I felt happy and cried tears of joy. Remember that I will always love you in my heart. We have been through hard times times too, and we did cope with them. So never 4get that I will still always be there for you, I am glad that I never gave you up. I thank that to God every day. Please take good care of yourself, respect others, never lose hope, and have faith in God. Love u always, ur mom, Christina.

Sending some birthday greetings to my handsome nephew Casey Lee Mianscum, who will turn 22 on the 25th of January and to my pretty one and only niece, Amanda Mianscum who will turn 17 on the 30th of January, who are way over in Ouje. Enjoy your special day, you two and please be careful. My, you guys are already those ages!! It's an expensive month for your parents, eh? "Happy Birthday" once again from your auntie who loves you and misses you both!! Take care & Love always : Your auntie Flo.

Wishing a HAPPY BIRTHDAY to a very special person in our lives, our Mother Doreen Shashaweskum on February 3rd. We wish we could be there on your special day. We luv U, Hugs and kisses, your daughters, Sabrina and Diana (Waswanipi). Wishing my baby sister a happy belated birthday on Jan. 17th, 2006. To Brittany Rosina Faye, I hope you had a great time

on your special day. And always know that I will be there for you, and you'll always be my baby sisi. With love from your sisi in Waskaganish.

Personal - 300

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of John Ottereyes of Chisasibi, James Bay region, Quebec, please contact S. Johnston collect at 613-747-7800 x2675.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS - 400

A Two-Spirit Meet and Greet: On Monday, January 30, at 6pm, we will be hosting a 'meet and greet' for two-spirit people, to be held at McGill's First Peoples' House, 3505 Peel St.† It is the first meeting of its kind to be held in Montreal, and so we would simply like to meet as a group, to get to know one-another as well as to discuss any ideas that people may have about future projects or goals.† All gay/lesbian/trans/two-spirit Aboriginal people living in Montreal and the surrounding communities are welcome.† Childcare is available (please inform us at least 48 hours in advance if you require childcare, along with the number and ages of the children).† Food will also be provided, and assistance with transportation is available upon request. Any questions or inquiries can be directed to Craig or Natalie at the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal, phone: 514-499-1854, fax: 514-499-9436



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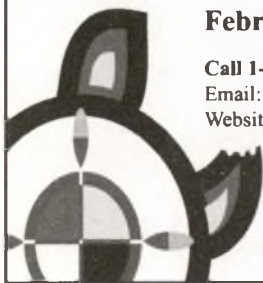
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In the Nord-du-Québec region, over \$18 million is being allocated to some 6000 families.

**...and already
 it's more generous!**

Starting January 1, 2006, payments to families will increase. This means another \$60 million is being returned to families.

The allowance for a child with a disability is increasing too

The allowance for a child with a disability is rising from \$121 to \$161.50 per month. It is paid to some 28,000 families, amounting to nearly \$55 million in 2006.

Examples:

Single-parent family with one child

Family income	Child Assistance in 2006
\$30 000 or less	\$2766
\$35 000	\$2633
\$45 000	\$2233
\$75 000	\$1033

Couple with two children

Family Income	Child Assistance in 2006
\$40 000 or less	\$3073
\$45 000	\$2997
\$75 000	\$1797
\$100 000	\$1105

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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL NISKAMOON COORDINATOR OR ANDREA KITCHEN AT 877-441-1101.

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Whapmagoostui	Chisasibi	Wemindji	EM-1	Waskaganish
January 16 10:30AM Sec. 4 & 5 and Public	January 16 6:00 PM Public	January 17 7:00 PM Public	January 18 TBA January 19 TBA	January 19 TBA
Eastmain	Waswanipi	Gatineau	Montreal	
January 23 4:00PM Public	January 25 11:40AM Sec. 4 & 5 and Public	January 26 1:00 PM	January 27 1:00 PM	
Nemaska	Mistissini	Ouje-Bougoumou	Val d'Or	
January 30 2:05PM Sec. 4 & 5 and Public	January 31 TBA PM	February 1 TBA PM	February 2 7:00 PM	

***Please note we will be presenting to all Secondary 4 & 5 students in each community (time of public presentations may vary).**



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